

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY East Germany/Poland

REPORT NO.

SUBJECT Soviet OB Summary

DATE DISTR. 9 July 1953

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REFERENCE
BY CABLE

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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- ☐ 1. Martial law, which had been proclaimed in Chemnitz on 17 June, was again re-
- 25X1X scinded on 26 June. No incidents had taken place. Ten T-34 tanks, coming from the direction of Frankenberg, entered the town on the morning of 22 June. The entire area of the railroad station was guarded by troops. All public buildings were occupied by a large number of VP's from Frankenberg. ¹

2. At noon on 17 June more than 35 trucks occupied by soldiers and guns of the 39th Guards Rifle Division left Plauen. They were allegedly headed for the uranium mining area. Elements of this unit returned to Plauen on 21 June.
3. In the evening of 25 June, units of the 20th Guards Mechanized Division left the Tannenberg Kaserne and Falk Kaserne in Weimar toward Ohrdruf. During the night of 26 June a tank battalion of the 65th Mechanized Regiment, which had moved to Weimar on 20 June, was again entrained and left toward the west.
4. During the night of 16 June, 40 T-34 tanks, 40 trucks and armored scout cars and AT guns of the 18th Mechanized Division arrived in Perleberg. The troops left by road toward Pritzwalk during the night of 25 June while the tanks were loaded in the morning of 27 June.

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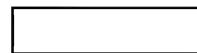
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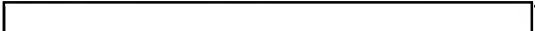
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5. On 17 June, the troops at the Forst Tauer training grounds were alerted. The camp area was placed off limits to all German workers until 22 June. Residents of Peitz stated that they had heard the noise of tanks and track-laying vehicles during the night of 17 June. The camp was apparently vacant until 27 June. The guard detail had been withdrawn and only double sentries patrolled in the surrounding woods.²

6. No troops were observed passing through Potsdam from the direction of Berlin prior to 3 July.³

7. At 1 p.m. on 4 July, a large number of tanks, SP guns and vehicles of every description were assembled at Friedrichshain in East Berlin. Ninety-eight T-34 tanks, 16 SP guns and trucks were observed on Dimitroff Strasse and Pasteur Strasse. ⁴

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8. Except for a tank unit of the 19th Guards Mechanized Division, all troops had departed from Magdeburg on 6 July.

9. On 7 July, two railroad brigade engineers stationed at Frankfurt/Oder reported that an order issued by the Soviet Transport Control headquarters on 4 July forbade travel by the brigade personnel to Poland. They stated that all shipments were being rerouted to Stettin.^{5, 6}

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Comments:

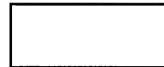
1. If the observed tanks were Soviet, they may have belonged to the 9th Tank Division.
2. Only a few of the tanks of the 9th Mechanized Division stationed at the Forst Tauer training grounds were employed in the Cottbus and Weisswasser area during the riots. It has not yet been determined whether the 100 tanks which were observed passing through Muskau en route toward Niesky and Goerlitz on 17 and 18 June belonged to this division. See paragraph 2 in 
3. Potsdam is located on the return road for units of the 1st Mechanized Division.
4. As another source still had observed tanks and motor vehicles of the 12th Guards Tank Division on 3 July, there is reason to believe that strong elements were still assembled southwest of the elevated railroad line between the Greifswalder Strasse and Lenin Allee railroad stations at noon of 4 July. They were possibly to be shipped from there by rail.

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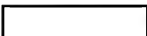
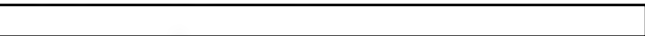

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5. If correct, this order may have been issued for the following reasons:
- a. To prevent German railroad personnel from obtaining information on possible riots in Poland in view of the fact that a German broadcasting station had reported on 4 July that German railroad men had supplied information on the Polish riots.
 - b. The Frankfurt/Oder-Warsaw-Brest-line, which is the main Soviet supply line and is capable of handling 18 trains per day in both directions, was blasted necessitating rerouting to other lines.
 - c. All transit lines through Poland broke down as a result of the riots requiring the shifting of all traffic to sea transport.

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6.  Comment:  25X1
- railroad traffic to Brest was unimpeded prior to 2 July and no disturbances were observed. 

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